Initiative Name

Family Resource Centers (FRC) - Children's Action Network

Initiative Description

The Family Independence Agency, as the lead State agency, has implemented a service delivery model that provides family focused services through a multi-disciplinary team to improve the education, health and social outcomes for children. These services are located at a school-linked or school-based family resource center connected to a priority school. Proponents of the school-linked services affirm that a child's needs are better met when services are co-located and coordinated to achieve the goals that are developed and shared by the family, community, and all involved agencies. Such an approach improves the child's behavior and performance in school. The program features include a single assessment tool and a comprehensive service plan; strong parental involvement; strong partnership between state and local agencies and schools; and active collaboration among community agencies that leverage resources to support families.

The Family Independence Agency staff has phased into twenty priority schools since August 2003. As we gain experience from these initial sites, the number of schools served will be increased, based on available funding.

Expected Outcomes

Administration Goals Attained
- Early childhood learning / quality child care / parental education

Other Benefits and Outcomes
- Improve school attendance and participation
- Remove barriers that inhibit a child making adequate yearly progress in school
- Enhance the academic, mental and physical well being of children
- Create a "one-stop" shopping source for families in need of state and local human services
- Create partnerships between state agencies, businesses, faith-based and community organizations
- Comprehensive focus on promoting a safe learning environment
- Enhancement of the academic, mental, and physical well being of children

Progress to Date
- Initiative successfully implemented in 19 priority schools.
- 20 expansion sites are on target for implementation.